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WORLD HOG NUMBERS IN 1952 AND 1953

World hog numbers at the beginning of 1953 are estimated by the Foreign Agricultural Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 301 million head, compared with 307 million head a year earlier. The decrease of 2 percent from last year's record total marks the first year of decline since 1946 and was largely the result of decreases in North America. World numbers are now 4 percent above the 1936-40 average.

Although there were some increases in Europe, Asia and South America, the rate of increase has slowed and it was not large enough to overcome decreases in the United States and Canada. Availability of other meats in plentiful supply and hog prices less attractive to producers in relation to feed prices in early 1952 was the principal cause for the decline during the past 12 months. Some tendency in early 1953 for feed grain prices to be lower in relation to hog prices may forestall further appreciable declines in 1953.

HOGS: Number by continent or area, averages
1936-40 and 1946-50, annual 1952-1953.

Continent or area	Average		1952 1/	1953 1/	Increase (+) or decrease (-)		1953	1952
	1936-40	1946-50			1953	1936-40		
	Thousands	Thousands			Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent
North America	61,400	74,000	80,400	71,200	+16	-12		
Europe	76,500	54,000	77,400	78,400	+2	+1		
U.S.S.R.	32,300	13,000	26,700	-	-	-		
Asia	83,900	74,200	78,700	80,300	-4	+2		
South America	31,300	33,900	38,100	39,000	+25	+2		
Africa	3,400	3,900	4,000	4,000	+19	-		
Oceania	2,100	2,000	1,800	1,800	-16	-		
Total	290,900	255,000	307,100	301,400	+4	-2		

1/ Preliminary

A summary of this information was published in the March 30, 1953 issue of Foreign Crops and Markets.

HOGS: Number in specified countries, averages 1936-40 and 1946-50, annual 1948-1953

Continent and country	Month of estimate	Average	1936-40	1946-50	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952 2/	1953 2/
			Thousands							
<u>NORTH AMERICA</u>										
Canada	Dec. 1 1/	4,078	5,542	5,381	4,604	5,413	5,419	5,498	5,498	5,237
El Salvador	July	559	2/	325	348	415	419	-	-	-
Guatemala	July	213	2/	394	374	407	-	-	-	-
Honduras	July	235	2/	364	399	5,500	-	550	-	-
Mexico	Jan. 1	2/4/	4,965	2/	5,430	-	5,500	5,500	-	-
Nicaragua	2/	48,352	57,563	54,590	56,257	58,852	62,852	63,582	54,632	-
United States	Jan. 1	48,352	57,563	54,590	56,257	58,852	62,852	63,582	54,632	-
Cuba	Dec. 31 1/2/	904	2/	1,730	1,700	1,800	1,800	1,800	-	-
Dominican Republic	June	842	2/	1,240	-	1,140	1,087	1,100	1,100	-
Estimated total		61,400	74,000	70,600	70,600	75,500	79,500	80,400	71,200	-
<u>EUROPE</u>										
Austria	Dec. 1 1/	2,849	6/	1,558	6/	1,724	6/	1,927	2,780	2,850
Belgium	Jan. 1	1,005	6/	886	6/	648	6/	1,361	1,234	1,360
Denmark	Jan.	2,997	2/	2,033	2/	1,604	1,944	3,120	3,229	3,906
Finland	Mar. 1	485	2/	350	304	409	449	-	-	-
France	Fall 1/	7,034	6/	5,714	6/	5,678	6/	6,747	6/	7,154
Germany, Western	Dec. 1 1/	12,660	6/	6,866	6/	5,516	6/	9,698	11,890	12,972
Greece	Dec. 31 1/2/	532	2/	482	480	509	530	568	635	640
Ireland	June	978	2/	543	457	675	645	558	719	-
Italy	Jan. 1	3,700	2/	3,800	3,949	4,400	-	4,052	-	3,770
Luxembourg	Dec. 1 1/	148	2/	100	100	106	110	-	-	-
Netherlands	Dec. 1 1/	1,725	2/	1,187	937	1,158	1,795	2,273	2,110	2,300
Norway	June 20	1,393	2/	321	248	419	422	386	418	-
Portugal	Dec. 31 1/2/	1,206	2/	1,200	1,200	-	-	-	-	-
Spain	Dec. 31 1/2/	4,944	2/	5,122	-	5,568	-	-	5,575	-
Sweden	Summer	1,292	2/	1,213	1,195	1,238	1,278	1,324	1,363	-
Switzerland	April	915	2/	789	767	877	908	892	1,007	-
United Kingdom	June	4,380	2/	2,309	2,151	2,823	2,986	3,891	4,962	-
Yugoslavia	Jan. 1	2,238	2/	-	4,127	4,287	3,911	3,954	3,700	-
Total above		50,500	2/	38,200	35,900	41,300	47,000	51,600	54,600	55,200
Other Europe		26,000	2/	15,800	15,300	18,900	21,200	21,200	22,800	23,200
Estimated total		76,500	2/	54,000	51,200	59,800	68,200	72,800	77,400	78,400
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	Jan. 1	32,300	2/	13,000	12,000	15,000	19,000	24,100	26,700	-

<u>ASIA</u>	<u>British Malaya</u>	Dec. 31 1/	746	397	444	452	475	476	504
	Burma	Dec. 31 1/	538	323	402	—	—	—	—
	China 8/	May	63,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
	India	Jan. 1	2,777	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Indonesia	Dec. 31 1/2/	1,199	2/	1,188	—	—	—	—
	Japan	Feb. 1	960	301	205	488	608	452	799
	Korea-South	Dec. 31 1/2/	828	440	521	659	525	156	335
	Philippine Islands	Jan. 1	4,398	1/	3,300	—	3,533	3,899	4,159
	Taiwan (Formosa)	Dec. 31 1/	1,823	976	1,006	1,167	1,362	1,620	4,449
	Estimated total	83,900	74,200	73,500	74,900	76,400	76,600	78,700	80,300

<u>SOUTH AMERICA</u>	Argentina	July	3/	3,674	3,000	2,500	3,000	2,600	2,900
	Brazil	June	3/	23,224	24,400	24,500	24,500	25,000	26,059
	Chile	Dec. 31 1/2/	420	3/	590	572	600	625	650
	Colombia	Dec. 31 1/2/	1,572	3/	2,092	2,059	2,162	2,470	2,782
	Ecuador	Dec. 31 1/2/	350	3/	1,070	1,140	—	—	—
	Peru	May	9/	800	3/	911	1/	960	995
	Uruguay	May	3/	373	3/	258	250	—	—
	Estimated total	—	—	21,300	33,900	36,400	36,200	36,400	38,100

<u>AFRICA</u>	<u>Algeria</u>	April 1	58	140	142	160	137	103	—
	Nyasaland	Dec. 31 1/	65	2/	75	—	80	91	45
	French Morocco 10/	Dec. 31 1/	64	—	68	68	97	103	56
	Madagascar 10/	Dec. 31 1/	578	—	406	410	400	405	296
	Mozambique	Dec. 31 1/	70	—	64	60	68	82	406
	Northern Rhodesia	Dec. 31 1/	29	—	48	58	43	47	75
	Angola	Dec. 31 1/2/	410	—	—	—	—	—	79
	Southern Rhodesia	Dec. 31 1/	115	—	121	—	117	103	50
	Tunisia	Dec. 31 1/	24	—	32	31	42	42	52
	Union of South Africa	August	1/	1,007	1,290	1,325	1,400	1,350	1,111
	Estimated total	—	—	2,400	3,900	4,000	4,200	4,000	4,000

<u>OCEANIA</u>	<u>Australia</u>	Mar. 31	1/	1,242	1,255	1,255	1,196	1,123	1,022
	New Zealand	Jan. 31	—	753	548	548	545	552	564
	Estimated total	—	—	2,100	2,000	2,000	1,900	1,900	1,800
	Estimated world total	—	—	290,900	255,000	249,700	261,600	279,800	295,400

1/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus for Canada the December 1947 estimate of 5,381,000 is shown under 1948. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Averages for 2 to 4 years only. 4/ June. 5/ Census or estimate for single year. 6/ Official statistics; may be underestimates of actual numbers. 7/ September. 8/ Includes China Proper (22 provinces), Manchuria, Jehol and Sinkiang (Turkestan). 9/ Year 1934. 10/ Number taxed only.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, and other information. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory, unless otherwise noted. Totals include estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable.—March, 1953.

Over-all demand for meat throughout the world since the end of World War II brought about a steady year to year increase up until 1952 when the peak was reached. Large increases in North and South America in the period offset decreased numbers in U.S.S.R., Asia and Oceania. Those countries producing hogs for commercial slaughter and export have shown the largest increases, while numbers in some countries notably Argentina, Uruguay, Australia, and New Zealand are only about three-fourths of prewar because of competition from other livestock enterprises and limited feed grain resources.

Hog numbers in the United States on January 1, 1953 were down 14 percent following the smaller spring and fall pig crops. The lower supply of pork had not brought about a corresponding price increase by the first of the year and lard prices also had continued to decline. The downturn in numbers probably will be halted during 1953, and hog numbers may be as large as this past January.

Canadian hog numbers decreased only 5 percent in comparison with the larger decrease in the United States, due largely to the more favorable feed grain situation. However, a December 1, 1952 survey in Canada of farmer intentions points to a reduction of about 20 percent in the spring pig crop and indicates a further fall in numbers a year hence as opposed to a leveling off in the United States.

In South America hog numbers increased slightly due to an increase of about 5 percent in Brazil, the leading hog-producing country in South America. Prices for pork products were favorable in relation to feed prices in late 1951 and early 1952 leading to an expansion of hog numbers in that country. Argentine hog numbers were down further due to the poor corn crop in 1951-52, and are now only 63 percent of the prewar average.

Hog numbers in Europe exceeded the prewar average last year and another small increase is estimated as of January 1, 1953, largely as a result of a more favorable feed situation and increased prices a year ago to those countries of Western Europe producing pork for export. Numbers in Belgium, Denmark, and the Netherlands are up about one-third over prewar.

Hog numbers in Asia are estimated to have made a 2 percent gain over last year and are now about 4 percent below prewar. There was considerable gain in the Philippines and numbers are now 25 percent above prewar. There also was a further gain in Taiwan, and a small increase is estimated in India.

In Oceania, hog numbers decreased slightly as a result of a downward change in Australia because of smaller supplies and higher prices for feed.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

